

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1. A method, comprising:
  - 2           receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
  - 3           receiving a trigger signal from the server;
  - 4           sending feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.
- 1           2. The method of claim 1 wherein sending the feedback to the server in
  - 2           response to the trigger signal from the server comprises establishing a connection
  - 3           to the server.
- 1           3. The method of claim 2 further comprising utilizing a binary
  - 2           exponential back-off system to establish the connection with the server if the
  - 3           connection to the server cannot be established.
- 1           4. The method of claim 1 wherein the sending the feedback to the server
  - 2           comprises establishing the connection the server through a back channel.
- 1           5. The method of claim 1 wherein the sending the feedback to the server
  - 2           comprises establishing the connection the server through a network connection to
  - 3           the server.

1        6. A method, comprising:  
2            receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
3            timing an amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the  
4        server;  
5            sending a next feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed since  
6        the previous feedback was sent to the server is greater than a predetermined  
7        amount of time.

1            7. The method of claim 6 wherein timing the amount of time lapsed since  
2        the previous feedback was sent to the server comprises maintaining a local timer  
3        of the amount of time lapsed since the previous feedback was sent to the server.

1            8. The method of claim 6 further comprising resetting a timer of the  
2        amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the server after  
3        sending the next feedback to the server.

1            9. The method of claim 6 wherein sending the next feedback to the server  
2        comprises establishing a connection to the with the server.

1        / 10. A method, comprising:  
2            receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
3            generating demand data related to the content described by the content  
4        descriptors;

5 sending feedback to the server after demand data is generated related to a  
6 first amount of content.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of the demand data  
2 comprises consuming at least a portion of content locally stored, the generation of  
3 demand data responsive to the portion of content that is consumed.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of demand data  
2 related to the content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving  
3 explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the sending of the feedback to the  
2 server comprises sending the feedback to the server after demand data related to a  
3 first number of pieces of content have been generated.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of the demand data  
2 related to the content comprises ranking the content.

1 15. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of the demand data  
2 related to the content comprises rating the content.

1 16. A method, comprising:  
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;

3 receiving content from the server;  
4 storing the content received from the server in a storage device;  
5 sending feedback to the server after a first amount of content stored in the  
6 storage device has been consumed.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising maintaining a count of a  
2 number of pieces of content that have been consumed since a previous feedback  
3 was sent to the server.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising resetting the count of the  
2 number of pieces of content that have been consumed since the previous feedback  
3 was sent to the server after sending the feedback to the server after the first  
4 amount of content stored in the storage device has been consumed.

1 19. A method, comprising:  
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
3 receiving content from the server;  
4 storing the content received from the server in a storage device;  
5 sending feedback to the server after a first amount of unconsumed content  
6 remains stored in the storage device.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising consuming content that is  
2 stored in the storage device.

1           21. The method of claim 19 further comprising maintaining a count of an  
2 amount of unconsumed content stored in the storage device.

1           22. The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
2 receiving additional content from the server after sending the feedback to  
3 the server; and  
4 storing the additional content received from the server in the storage  
5 device.

1           23. An apparatus, comprising:  
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:  
3 receive content descriptors from a server, the content descriptors to  
4 describe content potentially to be sent from the server;  
5 receive a trigger signal from the server;  
6 send feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1           24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein when the instructions stored on the  
2 machine-readable medium send the feedback to the server in response to the  
3 trigger signal from the server, the instructions on the machine-readable medium  
4 further establish a connection to the server.

1           25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions stored thereon to utilize a binary exponential back-off  
3 system to establish the connection with the server if the connection to the server  
4 cannot be established.

1           26. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein when the instructions stored on the  
2 machine-readable medium send the feedback to the server, the instructions on the  
3 machine-readable medium further establish the connection to the server through a  
4 back channel.

1           27. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein when the instructions stored on the  
2 machine-readable medium send the feedback to the server, the instructions on the  
3 machine-readable medium further establish the connection to the server through a  
4 network connection to the server.

1           /28. An apparatus, comprising:  
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:  
3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
4 time an amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent  
5 to the server;  
6 send a next feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed  
7 since the previous feedback was sent to the server is greater than a  
8 predetermined amount of time.

1           29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein when the instructions stored on the  
2 machine-readable medium time the amount of time lapsed since the previous  
3 feedback was sent to the server, the machine-readable medium further has  
4 instructions to maintain a local timer to time the amount of time lapsed since the  
5 previous feedback was sent to the server.

1           30. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions to reset a timer of the amount of time lapsed since a  
3 previous feedback was sent to the server after sending the next feedback to the  
4 server.

1           31. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein when the instructions stored on the  
2 machine-readable medium send the next feedback to the server, the machine-  
3 readable medium further has instructions stored thereon to establish a connection  
4 to the with the server.

1           / 32. An apparatus, comprising:  
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:  
3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
4 generate demand data related to the content described by the  
5 content descriptors;

1 /38. An apparatus, comprising:  
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:



3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
4 receive content from the server;  
5 store the content received from the server in a storage device;  
6 send feedback to the server after a first amount of content stored in  
7 the storage device has been consumed.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions to maintain a count of a number of pieces of content that  
3 have been consumed since a previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions to reset the count of the number of pieces of content that  
3 have been consumed since the previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 41. An apparatus, comprising:  
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:  
3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
4 receive content from the server;  
5 store the content received from the server in a storage device;  
6 send feedback to the server after a first amount of unconsumed  
7 content remains stored in the storage device.

1           42. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions to consume content that is stored in the storage device.

1           43. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions to maintain a count of an amount of unconsumed content  
3 stored in the storage device.

1           44. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the machine-readable medium  
2 further has instructions to:  
3           receive additional content from the server after sending the feedback to the  
4 server; and  
5           store the additional content received from the server in the storage device.

1           45. An apparatus, comprising  
2           a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;  
3           a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications  
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;  
5           a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored  
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:  
7           receive content descriptors from a server, the content descriptors to  
8 describe content potentially to be sent from the server;  
9           receive a trigger signal from the server;  
10          send feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1           46. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2     establish a connection with the server when sending feedback to the server in  
3     response to the trigger signal.

1           47. The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2     utilize a binary exponential back-off system to establish the connection with the  
3     server if the connection to the server cannot be established.

1           48. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2     establish a connection with the server through a back channel when sending  
3     feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1           49. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2     establish a connection with the server through a network connection when sending  
3     feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1           50. An apparatus, comprising  
2             a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;  
3             a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications  
4     interface coupled to receive communications from a server;  
5             a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored  
6     therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:

7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
8 time an amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent  
9 to the server;  
10 send a next feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed  
11 since the previous feedback was sent to the server is greater than a  
12 predetermined amount of time.

1 51. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2 maintain a local timer to time the amount of time lapsed since the previous  
3 feedback was sent to the server.

1 52. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2 establish a connection with the server when sending the next feedback to the  
3 server.

1 53. An apparatus, comprising  
2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;  
3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications  
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;  
5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored  
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:  
7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
8 rank or rate the content described by the content descriptors;

9                    send feedback to the server after demand data related to a first  
10                   amount of content has been generated.

1           54. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2   consume at least a portion of content locally stored, the demand data generated in  
3   responsive to the portion of content that is consumed.

1           55. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2   receive explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the demand data  
3   generated in responsive to the explicit user input.

1           56. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the demand data related to the first  
2   amount of content is generated after demand data has been generated in  
3   connection with a first number of pieces of content.

57. An apparatus, comprising:

- a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;
- a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface coupled to receive communications from a server;
- a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:
  - receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
  - receive content from the server;

9 store the content received from the server in a storage device;  
 10 send feedback to the server after a first amount of content stored in  
 11 the storage device has been consumed.

1 58. The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
 2 maintain a count of a number of pieces of content that have been consumed since  
 3 a previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 59. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
 2 reset the count of the number of pieces of content that have been consumed since  
 3 the previous feedback was sent to the server after sending the feedback to the  
 4 server.

1 / 60. An apparatus, comprising:  
 2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;  
 3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications  
 4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;  
 5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored  
 6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:  
 7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;  
 8 receive content from the server;  
 9 store the content received from the server in a storage device;

10                    send feedback to the server after a first amount of unconsumed  
11                    content remains stored in the storage device.

1                    61. The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2                    consume content that is stored in the storage device.

1                    62. The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the apparatus is further caused to  
2                    maintain a count of an amount of unconsumed content stored in the storage  
3                    device.

1                    63. The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the apparatus is further caused to:  
2                    receive additional content from the server after sending the feedback to the  
3                    server; and  
4                    store the additional content received from the server in the storage device.

1                    64. A method, comprising:  
2                    sending content descriptors, which describe content, to one or more  
3                    clients;  
4                    sending a trigger signal to said one or more clients;  
5                    receiving feedback from the one or more clients in response to the trigger  
6                    signal.

1           65. The method of claim 64 further comprising generating the content  
2 descriptors to describe the content prior to sending the content descriptors to the  
3 one or more clients.

1           66. The method of claim 64 further comprising determining an order to  
2 send the content in response to the feedback received from the one or more  
3 clients.

1           67. The method of claim 64 further comprising identifying the content to  
2 send to the one or more clients in response to the feedback received from the one  
3 or more clients.

1           68. A method, comprising:  
2           generating content descriptors to describe content;  
3           sending the content descriptors to one or more clients;  
4           receiving feedback from the one or more clients without the sending of a  
5 trigger signal to the one or more clients.

1           69. The method of claim 68 further comprising determining an order to  
2 send the content in response to the feedback received from the one or more  
3 clients.



1           70. The method of claim 68 further comprising identifying the content to  
2 send to the one or more clients in response to the feedback received from the one  
3 or more clients.

1           71. A system, comprising:  
2           a server;  
3           one ore more clients coupled to the server;  
4           wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which  
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;  
6           wherein the server is coupled to broadcast a trigger signal to the one or  
7 more clients;  
8           wherein the one or more clients are coupled to send feedback to the server  
9 in response to the trigger signal.

1           72. The system of claim 71 wherein the one or more clients are coupled to  
2 utilize a binary exponential back-off system to establish a connection with the  
3 server to send the feedback to the server if a connection to the server cannot be  
4 established.

1           73. The system of claim 71 wherein the one or more clients are coupled to  
2 establish a connection to the server through a back channel to send the feedback to  
3 the server.

1        74. A system, comprising:  
2            a server;  
3            one ore more clients coupled to the server;  
4            wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which  
5            describe available content, to the one or more clients;  
6            wherein each of the one or more clients are coupled to time an amount of  
7            time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the server;  
8            wherein each of the one or more clients are coupled to send a next  
9            feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed since the previous feedback  
10          was sent to the server is greater than a predetermined amount of time.

1            75. The system of claim 74 each of the one or more clients each of the one  
2            or more clients include a timer to time the amount of time lapsed since the  
3            previous feedback was sent to the server.

1            76. The system of claim 75 wherein each of the one or more clients each  
2            of the one or more clients are coupled to reset the timer of the amount of time  
3            lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the server after the next feedback is  
4            sent to the server.

1        77. A system, comprising:  
2            a server;  
3            one ore more clients coupled to the server;

4            wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which  
 5       describe available content, to the one or more clients;  
 6            wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to generate demand data  
 7       related to the content described by the content descriptors;  
 8            wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to send feedback to the  
 9       server after demand data is generated related to a first amount of content on each  
 10      respective one of the clients.

1            78. The system of claim 77 wherein each of the one or more clients are  
 2       each coupled to consume at least a portion of content locally stored, the  
 3       generation of demand data on each client responsive to the portion of content that  
 4       is consumed.

1            79. The system of claim 77 wherein each of the one or more clients are  
 2       each coupled to receive explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content  
 3       when generating the demand data.

1            /80. A system, comprising:  
 2            a server;  
 3            one ore more clients coupled to the server;  
 4            wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which  
 5       describe available content, to the one or more clients;

6 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content to the one or more  
7 clients;

8 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to receive and store the  
9 content received from the server;

10 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to consume the content;

11 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to send feedback to the  
12 server after a first amount of content stored in the storage device has been  
13 consumed.

1 81. The system of claim 80 wherein the one or more clients are each  
2 coupled to maintain a count of a number of pieces of content that have been  
3 consumed since a previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 82. The system of claim 81 wherein the one or more clients are each  
2 coupled to reset the count of the number of pieces of content that have been  
3 consumed since the previous feedback was sent to the server after sending the  
4 feedback to the server after the first amount of content stored in the storage device  
5 has been consumed.

1 / 83. A system, comprising:  
2 a server;  
3 one ore more clients coupled to the server;

4 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which  
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;  
6 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content to the one or more  
7 clients;  
8 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to receive and store the  
9 content received from the server;  
10 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to consume the content;  
11 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to send feedback to the  
12 server after a first amount of unconsumed content remains stored at the client.

1 84. The system of claim 83 wherein the one or more clients are each  
2 coupled to maintain a count of an amount of unconsumed content stored at the  
3 client.

1 85. The system of claim 83 wherein the one or more clients are each  
2 coupled to receive additional content from the server after sending the feedback to  
3 the server and store the additional content received from the server at the client.

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